

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1644
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
TREATMENT TO ROAD VICTIMS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Hospitals are legally bound to provide emergency medical treatment to the road victims that arrive at their doorsteps;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such victims are supposed to receive specialized medical care in the first 'golden hour' so as to save life;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that almost all the big hospitals fail to treat head injuries in their emergency wards and refer to the patients to Sushrut Trauma Centre (STC) to shirk their responsibilities; and
- (e) if so, details thereof and number of patients referred to STC during each of the last three years by AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Hindu Rao etc.?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 6.5.1996 in SLP(C) No.796/92-Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity & Others Vs. State of West Bengal & Others suggested remedial measures to ensure immediate medical attention and treatment to persons in real needs. Hon'ble Court had given directions that other States though not parties should also take necessary steps in the light of recommendations made by the Inquiry Committee which was set up by the State Government of West Bengal and further directions as given by the Court. The copies of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were circulated on 12.12.1996 to all States/Union Territories with the suggestion to take appropriate action for carrying out orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Suitable guidelines were also issued on 13.12.1996 to all Hospitals/Institutes under Central Government viz. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, PGIMER, Chandigarh, JIPMER, Pondicherry, Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College & Associated Hospitals and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. As per these guidelines all patients whose condition is morbid/serious should be admitted even if beds are not available and have to be paid all necessary attention. In no case the patient will be left unattended for want of vacant beds in the emergency/casualty department. Accordingly, the Central Government Hospitals are following the guidelines.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e): Proper medical care as per the need is provided to the patients attending the casualty department in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College & Associated Hospitals and no injury patient is referred to Sushruta Trauma Centre. The information in respect of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and Hindu Rao Hospital is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.